

Parliamentarians have been arrested since the 2008 election.

Negotiations subsequently took place, and in September 2008 the three parties signed the Global Political Agreement (GPA), a power-sharing agreement under which Mugabe would retain the presidency and Tsvangirai would become prime minister. In February 2009 Tsvangirai was sworn in as prime minister, and new cabinet ministers and deputy ministers from the two lVlDC factions and the ruling party also were sworn in. According to Dewa Mavhinga, Regional Information and Advocacy Coordinator for the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, stated that key state institutions remain unreformed despite the change in the composition of the government.

There is serious contention within the ruling party for the right to succeed President Mugabe once he leaves office, and added to the division within the opposition, politics in Zimbabwe is in flux to say the least. Paul Fagan, Regional Director for Africa for the International Republican Institute, testified that the "imminent constitutional referendum and national elections have the potential to graduate the crisis in Zimbabwe from a steady but manageable simmer to boiling over."

It is in this environment that the United States faces the challenge of examining our current policy and determining how it might best be adjusted. I appreciated hearing from our witnesses on how the U.S. policy toward Zimbabwe may change to help that nation reach the desired goals of democracy and good governance. Sharon Cromer, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Africa Bureau, told us that her agency is finalizing a democracy and governance assessment that "highlights impediments and opportunities for us to promote democratic institutions in Zimbabwe." We eagerly await the release of that assessment for its impact on U.S. policy in Zimbabwe.

COMMEMORATING THE CIVIL AIR PATROL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol. Born on December 1, 1941 in the days before the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor, the Civil Air Patrol is comprised of patriotic Americans whose flying skills and bravery have come to the rescue of this great nation again and again.

In World War II, as German U-boats sank American ships along our coasts and threatened our war effort, thousands of volunteers from the Civil Air Patrol risked their lives to safeguard our shores and deter the enemy's efforts. These "sub chasers" spotted 143 German submarines, attacking 57 and sinking 2.

This volunteer force was so successful that after the war President Harry Truman signed a law making the Civil Air Patrol a benevolent, non-profit organization. Congress followed suit and in 1948 permanently established the organization as the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Its three primary missions, as established by law, are emergency services, cadet programs, and aerospace education.

Today the Civil Air Patrol educates young people about aviation and aerospace and encourages them to engage in civic and military leadership. It continues to save lives by participating in 90 percent of the Air Force's inland search and rescue missions. And when it comes to natural disasters, volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol can be counted on to assist more than 1,600 communities across America. They also work with the American Red Cross on humanitarian missions, coming to the rescue when other means of transportation are not available.

In the last year, Civil Air Patrol volunteers participated in 1,016 search and rescue missions and helped save 113 lives. This volunteer organization leads the way for similar groups around the world and sets an example for other countries who wish to have the same success. We can be proud that America's Civil Air Patrol is the gold standard for search and rescue, aerospace education, and emergency services operations.

So today we not only congratulate the Civil Air Patrol on 70 years of outstanding service, but we also thank them for coming to the aid of this great nation time and time again. Their bravery and civic leadership serve as a beacon of pride to the grateful Americans they serve.

THE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2011: TRUTH, TRENDS, AND TIER RANKINGS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on October 27 of this year, I held a hearing to examine the State Department's 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report. This annual report to Congress was first mandated by legislation that I sponsored, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, known as the TVPA.

In 1998, when I first introduced the TVPA, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition. People both inside of government and out thought the issue of human trafficking was merely a solution in search of a problem. For most people at that time, the term trafficking applied almost exclusively to illicit drugs or weapons. Reports of vulnerable persons—especially women and children—being reduced to commodities for sale were often met with surprise, incredulity or indifference.

One major objection to the bill, especially from the Clinton administration, was the naming and ranking of countries based on compliance with the establishment of common-sense minimum standards—clearly articulated prevention, protection, and prosecution benchmarks—enforced by sanctions and penalties against egregious violators.

Fortunately, reality won out over ignorance. Although it took two years to overcome opponents and muster the votes for passage, the TVPA was finally signed into law with strong bipartisan support. This support from both sides of the aisles has continued through subsequent reauthorizations, and has been essential to the ongoing successes by the United States Government in combating modern day slavery both at home and abroad.

However, the battle is far from over. According to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking—created by the TPVA—more than 12 million people worldwide are trafficking victims. Other estimates put the number of victims as high as 27 million. Today we know that human trafficking is the third most lucrative criminal activity in the world. According to the International Labor Organization, ILO, human traffickers make profits in excess of \$31 billion a year.

At the hearing, we were fortunate to receive testimony from three State Department witnesses to examine both the substance and the diplomatic activity that is behind the Trafficking in Persons Report. The Report, which is written by the Trafficking in Persons Office currently headed by Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, summarizes the rankings and performance of each country and provides detailed recommendations as to how each country can improve its efforts. But more than a source of comprehensive, concise knowledge about the fight against human trafficking around the world, the TIP Report has been an incredibly effective diplomatic tool.

The Report has been a catalyst for improvement—often dramatic improvements—in the efforts of governments to address human trafficking within their borders and regions. With a combination of encouragement, persuasion, and sustained pressure via sanctions imposed by the United States, countries around the world have created or amended over 120 laws to combat human trafficking, and, in the past three years alone, an estimated 113,000 victims have been identified and assisted worldwide.

Individuals within each country can use the Report to assess their government's commitment and to lobby their government to take specific measures. The G/TIP Office also coordinates technical assistance and aid for many of the countries wishing to improve their anti-trafficking response.

The result has been a worldwide anti-trafficking surge, largely dependent on the credibility, accuracy, and faithful implementation of the Report, including the Tier framework.

We turned our attention to ensuring that the Report retains these essential attributes and to assess whether it is fulfilling its purpose.

In 2003, Congress added a special watch list to the Tier rankings to allow countries an opportunity to address serious shortcomings in their anti-trafficking efforts before being placed in Tier III and subject to sanctions. When it became apparent that this Tier II Watch List was becoming a permanent parking spot for some countries, Congress added a requirement to the 2008 reauthorization that the President either downgrade or upgrade any country that had been on the Tier II Watch List for two consecutive years. Obviously, the direction in which the country is moved is to be based on whether requisite measures were taken to meet the minimum standards.

The President can waive the requirement to move a country off of the Tier II Watch List for up to two years if the country has a plan to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards and designates sufficient resources to carry it out. But this waiver should only be applied in the most extreme cases as countries have had since 2009 to undertake this effort.

Consequently, it is with concern that I note the President has determined 12 countries